

Burlington County Court House  
Mt. Holly, Burlington County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Burlington County Court House  
Mt. Holly, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: Board of Chosen Freeholders, Burlington County

Date of Erection: 1796

Architect (Probable): Samuel Lewis, Master Carpenter

Builder: Michael Rush

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: Three

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - plaster,  
vaulted ceilings

Floors - brick

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - hip, tin

Historical Data:

The first Burlington County Court House was located in Burlington City; it had been erected there in 1683. In 1794 it was decided to build a new court house. An election was held at Mt. Holly in 1795 to decide on its location. Three towns desired to have the court house -- Burlington, Mt. Holly, and Black Horse. Mt. Holly won.

The land on which the county buildings are located was purchased from Joseph Powell for 210 pounds. Samuel Lewis, a master carpenter, was the superintendent of construction, and the design of the buildings is credited to him. Michael Rush was the builder.

The building, except that it is more ornate, is of the same type as the old City Hall on Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

The front entrance is ornamented by fluted columns on either side and a graceful fan light above. The interior has an interesting colonial stairway.

The bell in the belfry formerly hung in the old Court House at Burlington.

Originally there was a large folding door in the center of the front hall. There were also balconies with seats for spectators. A raised platform in the center of the court room accommodated the jurors.

In 1798, a room was fitted up in the basement for prisoners during the sessions of court.

The small buildings on either side of the court house, now used as offices for the surrogate and collector of taxes and which harmonize with the main building, were erected in 1807. The prison was built in 1810 or 1811.

An old Revolutionary War cannon, which is mounted in the Court Yard, is said to have been manufactured in the iron works which stood on the bank of Rancocas Creek on South Pine Street.

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Court records and material collected by  
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